

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 TRSE-00 EB-07 EUR-12 DIWY-01  
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INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /078 W  
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O 112008Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8002  
THE WHITE HOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 CARACAS 5871

SECSTATE FOR ARA; USIA FOR ILA GEORGE MILLER, IOP/M, IPS, IBS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, ROSALYNN), VE  
SUBJECT: MRS. CARTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE - JUNE 11

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MRS. CARTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AT  
CIRCULO MILITAR, JUNE 11:

COLLEAGUES OF THE PRESS, I HAVE THE HONOR TO PRESENT TO YOU MRS.  
ROSALYNN CARTER. THE FIRST QUESTION WILL BE RECEIVED FROM THE  
VENEZUELAN PRESS.

MRS. CARTER: THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Q. SENORA ROASLYNN CARTER, RADIO CARACAS TELEVISION. YOU, AS WELL  
AS YOUR HUSBAND ARE DEFENDERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. NEVERTHELESS, UP  
UNTIL NOW WE HAVE NOT SEEN EFFECTIVE STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT  
OF THE UNITED STATES TO PUT A STOP TO THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
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IN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. WHAT PRACTICAL MEASURES DOES THE  
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT PLAN TO PUT INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY?

A. I THINK THAT WE HAVE ALREADY TAKEN MEASURES - I THINK THAT WE ARE  
LOOKING VERY CLOSELY AT OUR COUNTRY. MY HUSBAND IS COMMITTED TO  
PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN OUR COUNTRY AND IN THE WHOLE WORLD.  
I THINK WE HAVE A VERY GOOD RECORD AT HOME. I THINK JIMMY'S

POSITION REFLECTS THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE OF OUR COUNTRY AND I DO BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE A GOOD RECORD. WE WILL EXAMINE ANY SITUATION AT HOME WHERE WE THINK WE ARE NOT PROTECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF OUR PEOPLE. BUT I AM VERY PLEASED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN OUR COUNTRY AND I AM VERY PLEASED ABOUT THE CONVERSATIONS THAT I HAVE HAD IN THE COUNTRIES THAT I HAVE VISITED IN HELPING US PROMOTE AND PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS. THE HEADS OF THE STATES THAT I HAVE VISITED, HELPING US PROMOTE AND PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE WHOLE WORLD--THIS IS NOT JUST A POLICY OF MY HUSBAND...WE WANT IT TO BE A MULTI-LATERAL POSITION OF POLICY OF ALL THE WORLD WORKING TOGETHER TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS.

Q. JUDY WOODRUFF, NBC. MRS. CARTER, YOUR TRIP IS ALMOST OVER. WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS?

A. WELL, WHEN I LEFT HOME I SAID THAT IF I CAN DO THREE THINGS-- IF I COULD DEVELOP A PARTIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MY FAMILY AND THE HEADS OF THE STATES OF THE COUNTRIES I WAS VISITING, I THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO ALL COUNTRIES INVOLVED. I THINK I HAVE DONE THAT. I WANTED TO DISCUSS WITH THE LEADERS OF THOSE COUNTRIES THE FOREIGN POLICY OF MY HUSBAND. I HAVE DONE THAT. I THINK NOW THEY UNDERSTAND THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES. AND THE THIRD THING IS TO CONSULT WITH THE LEADERS--LET THEM KNOW THAT WE BELIEVE THAT THE COUNTRIES IN THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN AREAS ARE ALL INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES WITH DIFFERENT PROBLEMS. WE WANT TO CONSULT WITH THEM, COOPERATE WITH THEM, WORK CLOSELY ON THE PROBLEMS THAT WE HAVE BETWEEN OUR OWN COUNTRY, BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES IN THE REGION--WE WANT THE COOPERATION AND THE INPUT FROM THE COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA ON REGIONAL AS

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AS WELL AS GLOBAL ISSUES. AND I THINK THAT I HAVE MADE THIS CLEAR TO THEM.

Q. JUDY WOODRUFF, NBC. A FOLLOW-UP. DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED ANY CHANGES OR THE BEGINNINGS OF CHANGES IN FOREIGN POLICY AS A RESULT OF YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH SOME OF THESE LEADERS?

A. I THINK THAT--I HOPE I HAVE MADE SOME FIRST STEPS TOWARDS A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COUNTRIES THAT I HAVE VISITED. JIMMY WANTED ME TO COME ON THIS TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA VERY EARLY IN HIS ADMINISTRATION, TO LET THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES KNOW THAT HE IS INTERESTED IN THEM--HE WANTS TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THEM, CONSULT WITH THEM--AS I SAID EARLIER, NOT ONLY ON QUESTIONS BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES THAT I HAVE BEEN TO, BUT CONSULT WITH THEM ON PROBLEMS OF THE REGION AND OF THE WORLD. I THINK THAT I HAVE DONE THAT, I THINK THAT I HAVE OPENED SOME DIALOGUE THAT MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO ALL OF OUR COUNTRIES.

Q. MRS. CARTER, DAVID DOW, CBS NEWS. YESTERDAY IN YOUR ARRIVAL

STATEMENT HERE IN VENEZUELA, YOU SAID THAT WE WANT TO DEVELOP A VERY SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU--VENEZUELA, THAT IS. WAS THAT MEANT AS AN INFORMAL WORD OF FRIENDLINESS OR DOES IT CONVEY SOMETHING TANGIBLE IN THE REAL DIPLOMATIC SENSE THAT IT DID WHEN HENRY KISSINGER USED THE SAME TERM "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" IN BRAZIL MORE THAN A YEAR AGO?

A. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE TERMINOLOGY THAT HENRY KISSINGER USED, BUT AS THIS IS NEW TO ME, YOU KNOW, I SAID IT AS A MATTER OF FRIENDSHIP--I HAVE BEEN IN SEVEN COUNTRIES--WE LOOK FORWARD TO DEVELOPING A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND LETTING THEM KNOW THAT WE ARE INTERESTED IN THEM. WE ARE LONG-TIME FRIENDS OF VENEZUELA, AND WE WANT TO HAVE THIS CLOSE, PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP WITH THE LEADERS, WITH THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY.

Q. DAVID DOW, CBS. I GUESS MY QUESTION IS DOES IT MEAN--THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP--DOES IT MEAN ANY SPECIAL TREATMENT AS FAR AS RELATIONS FOR VENEZUELA OVER THOSE OF OTHER NATIONS?

A. I HAVE NOT TRIED TO SINGLE OUT ANY ONE COUNTRY OVER ANOTHER.

Q. MY NAME IS ROSITA REGALADO, REPRESENTATIVE OF EL NACIONAL. MRS. CARTER, I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT TAKING SUCH AN ACTIVE ROLE IN YOUR COUNTRY'S INTERNATIONAL POLICIES, WHICH IN MY VIEW, IS A NEW STEP FOR THE FIRST LADIES OF THE WORLD'S COUNTRIES?

A. WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU KNOW IT OR NOT, BUT I CAMPAIGNED FOR A YEAR AND A HALF FOR MY HUSBAND AND LEARNED THE DOMESTIC ISSUES. I THOUGHT THAT I WAS HELPFUL TO HIM IN LETTING THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES KNOW HIS POSITION ON ISSUES ON A DOMESTIC LEVEL. SINCE HE HAS BEEN PRESIDENT, I HAVE BEEN STUDYING FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PARTICULARLY THE RELATIONSHIP THAT OUR COUNTRY HAS WITH THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES. IF I CAN BE HELPFUL TO MY HUSBAND--AND I WILL GO BACK AND TELL HIM FIRSTHAND THE CONVERSATIONS THAT I HAVE HAD WITH THE LEADERS, THE IMPRESSIONS THAT I HAVE HAD OF THE COUNTRIES--IF I CAN BE HELPFUL IN BRINGING THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES THAT I HAVE VISITED, AND MY HUSBAND CLOSER TOGETHER--MY HUSBAND AND THE UNITED STATES--I THINK THAT THAT'S A VERY GOOD THING. AND I REALLY BELIEVE THAT THE CONVERSATIONS THAT I HAVE HAD WITH THE LEADERS ARE GOOD, THEY'VE BEEN NOT JUST IN GENERAL TERMS BUT ON SPECIFIC ISSUES, AND I THINK I CAN TAKE THIS BACK AND WILL BE VERY HELPFUL TO JIMMY THIS WAY AS I WAS IN THE CAMPAIGN, WITH DOMESTIC ISSUES.

Q. CHELITA ROJAS, LA ZETA MAGAZINE. MRS. CARTER, HOW WOULD YOU EXPLAIN THAT YOUR HUSBAND'S GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN AS A PRINCIPAL

BANNER THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND NOW IS MAKING OVERTURES  
TOWARDS A REGIME LIKE FIDEL CASTRO'S?

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SECSTATE FOR ARA; USIA FOR ILA GEORGE MILLER, IOP/M, IPS, IBS

TRANSLATOR: OVERTURES TOWARD WHOM?

ROJAS: THE REGIME OF FIDEL CASTRO.

A. WE WANT TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES AND WE HAVE  
OPENED DIALOGUE WITH CUBA, BUT THAT IS ALL. WE THINK THAT IT IS  
BETTER TO OPEN DIALOGUE--WE HAVE MANY, MANY PROBLEMS WITH THEM  
THAT WE HAVE TO OVERCOME BEFORE WE DO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH  
CUBA--BUT AT LEAST WE HAVE OPENED DIALOGUE AND I DON'T THINK THERE'S  
ANY OTHER WAY THAT WE CAN DEVELOP NORMAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH ANY  
COUNTRY OTHER THAN TO OPEN DIALOGUE--EVEN IF YOU HAVE MANY  
DIFFERENCES AND MANY PROBLEMS, YOU CAN BEGIN TO TALK ABOUT THEM  
AND THAT'S WHAT WE HAVE DONE WITH CUBA.

Q. MRS. CARTER, MARLENE SIMMONS FROM THE LOS ANGELES TIMES. IN  
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YOUR CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ, DID HE SPECIFICALLY ASK THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION CHANGE THE PROVISIONS OF THE TRADE ACT SO THAT THEY WOULD NO LONGER DISCRIMINATE AGAINST VENEZUELA BECAUSE OF ITS MEMBERSHIP IN OPEC?

A. NO, WE DECIDED TO SAVE THAT UNTIL SUNDAY. I WILL TALK WITH HIM ABOUT IT TOMORROW.

Q. MRS. CARTER, GOOD AFTERNOON. I AM ISRAEL MENDEZ OF NATIONAL RADIO, VENEZUELA. EX-PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON BROKE THE DIPLOMATIC ICE WITH PEKING THROUGH PING PONG GAMES. THE SOVIET UNION, IN LIGHT OF THE INFORMATION THAT IS ARRIVING, SEEMS TO BE VERY DISTURBED BY YOUR HUSBAND'S GESTURES IN FAVOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS. WILL YOU BE WILLING TO GO TO THE SOVIET UNION TO MAKE THESE DIPLOMATIC MEANEUVERS IN FAVOR OF THE CRUSADE WHICH YOUR HUSBAND HAS BEGUN?

A. I DON'T KNOW. ONE THING THAT I WOULD LIKE TO SAY IS THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IS NOT AN ISSUE OF MY HUSBAND ALONE. HE IS COMMITTED TO FURTHERING, PROMOTING AND PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE WORLD. BUT IT'S NOT A POLICY OF JUST OUR OWN. WE WANT TO WORK ON A MULTI-LATERAL BASIS TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS. I THINK WE'RE DOING THAT. I'VE BEEN TALKING WITH LEADERS ABOUT THE DIFFERENT--THE AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, STRENGTHENING THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, AT THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN GRANADA--I'VE BEEN TALKING TO THE LEADERS OF THE COUNTRIES THAT I'VE VISITED ABOUT THIS IN MY WHOLE TRIP--AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IS NOT JUST--IT'S NOT JUST A UNITED STATES ISSUE. IT'S AN ISSUE THAT INVOLVES ALL OF THE COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT REACTION THE RUSSIANS HAVE HAD TO IT.

Q. FAYE JOYCE, WITH THE ST. PETE TIMES. MRS. CARTER, YOU'VE REPEATEDLY SPOKEN OF YOUR TRIP IN TERMS OF THE INFORMATION YOU ARE BRINGING FROM YOUR HUSBAND AND THE INFORMATION YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE BACK TO HIM. THIS IS ALSO AN UNPRECEDENTED UNCLASSIFIED

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MISSION FOR AN AMERICAN WOMAN--FOR ANY WOMAN--AND YOU SEEM TO ME TO SHY AWAY FROM THAT ASPECT OF WHAT YOU'RE DOING. ARE YOU UNCOMFORTABLE ABOUT BEING IDENTIFIED WITH FEMINISM OR ABOUT TAKING CREDIT FOR BREAKING NEW GROUND FOR WOMEN?

A. I HAVE NOT BEEN UNCOMFORTABLE AT ALL. I HAVE ENJOYED THE VISIT--I DO THINK THAT IT'S GOING TO BE VERY, VERY HELPFUL TO OUR COUNTRY AND TO THE COUNTRIES WHERE I HAVE BEEN--AND I'M JUST GLAD THAT I'VE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO IT.

Q. FAYE JOYCE. DO YOU SEE ANY SIGNIFICANCE IN THE FACT THAT YOU ARE A WOMAN WHO IS GOING THIS?

A. IF IT HAS NOT BEEN DONE BEFORE, MAYBE IT IS SIGNIFICANT. I DON'T KNOW--I'VE ALWAYS WORKED--I WORKED IN THE PEANUT WAREHOUSE AND I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT A WOMAN WORKING IN THE PEANUT WAREHOUSE. I CAMPAIGNED FOR JIMMY--I CAMPAIGNED BECAUSE WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY MONEY. AND I HAD--AND EVERYBODY IN MY FAMILY HAD TO GO AND CAMPAIGN. I'M DOING THIS BECAUSE I REALLY THINK IT CAN BE HELPFUL TO JIMMY. I'M GLAD I'M A WOMAN.

APPLAUSE.

Q. GOOD AFTERNOON, MRS. CARTER. MY NAME IS ZAIDA ROSALES. I'M A CORRESPONDENT FOR VENEZUELAN TELEVISION. I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE MORE CONCRETE YOUR ANSWER TO THE QUESTION BY THE FIRST VENEZUELAN CORRESPONDENT IN THE FOLLOWING TERMS. IN WHAT WAY CAN YOUR COUNTRY CONTRIBUTE TO HELP END THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN LATIN AMERICA, SO WELL KNOWN BY EVERYONE?

A. I THINK WE CAN WORK TOGETHER WITH THE COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA. AS I SAID BEFORE, I HAVE BEEN ASKING ALL OF THE LEADERS WITH WHOM I HAVE MET TO SIGN AND RATIFY THE AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. I HAVE ASKED THEM TO WORK TO BE SURE THAT IT'S BROUGHT UP AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING OF THE OAS IN GRANADA, IN JUST A FEW DAYS--I THINK IT'S NEXT WEEK--AND AT THAT MEETING

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TO STRENGTHEN THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND MAKE IT MORE AUTONOMOUS. THESE THINGS I HAVE TALKED WITH THE LEADERS OF THE COUNTRIES IN WHICH I HAVE BEEN. I THINK IT IS VERY, VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE WORK TOGETHER WITH THE COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS AND I THINK WE CAN DO IT.

Q. MRS. CARTER, DID PRESIDENT PEREZ GIVE YOU ANY IDEA WHAT HE HOPES TO ACCOMPLISH LATER THIS MONTH WHEN HE COMES TO WASHINGTON TO MEET WITH YOUR HUSBAND?

A. WE DIDN'T TALK ABOUT THAT YET. MY CONVERSATION WITH HIM YESTERDAY WAS A GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION FOREIGN POLICY. HE TALKED TO ME AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS--ABOUT NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION, IN WHICH HE'S IN AGREEMENT WITH MY HUSBAND ON BOTH OF THOSE ISSUES COMPLETELY. HE TALKED TO ME ABOUT THE CARIBBEAN AREA AND SOME OF THE THINGS THAT ARE HAPPENING IN THAT AREA. AND WE DECIDED THAT SINCE WE HAD ANOTHER HOUR ON SUNDAY MORNING THAT WE WOULD BRING UP THE SPECIFICS AT THAT TIME. SO ON SUNDAY MORNING WE ARE GOING TO GET DOWN MORE TO THE SPECIFIC ISSUES AND IDENTIFY THOSE AREAS IN WHICH HE WANTS TO

TALK WITH JIMMY ABOUT IN WASHINGTON LATER THIS MONTH.

ONE MORE QUESTION.

Q. MRS. CARTER, EVERETT BAUMANN OF THE DAILY JOURNAL. WE HAVE INFORMATION THAT YOUR HUSBAND'S GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO RECOMMEND TO THE CONGRESS THAT THERE BE RESCINDED THE DISCRIMINATORY CLAUSE AGAINST THE OPEC COUNTRIES. WE ALSO HAVE INFORMATION THAT THIS CANNOT SUCCEED IN CONGRESS, BUT IF IT WERE PRESENTED AS AN AMENDMENT EXCLUDING VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR THIS WOULD HAVE A CHANGE TO BE APPROVED. DO YOU BELIEVE YOU CAN SAY SOMETHING ON THIS?

A. WE UNDERSTAND THE POSITION OF VENEZUELA COMPLETELY AND SYMPATHIZE WITH THAT POSITION--AND WE APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT VENEZUELA HAS BEEN A RELIABLE SUPPLY OF PETROLEUM FOR OUR COUNTRY AND DID  
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NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE EMBARGO. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS IS LINKED IN THE MINDS OF MANY PEOPLE WITH THE QUADRUPLING IN THE PRICE OF ENERGY IN OUR COUNTRY. WE ARE GOING TO REVIEW THIS. THERE ARE QUESTIONS IN CONGRESS ABOUT THE AMENDMENT--ABOUT WHEN TO CONSIDER IT, WHETHER TO CONSIDER IT--JUST HOW TO GO ABOUT THE AMENDMENT. BUT, AS I SAID, WE ARE GOING TO REVIEW THE AMENDMENT. I CANNOT MAKE YOU ANY PROMISES ABOUT IT BECAUSE I CAN'T COME DOWN AND SAY THAT WE PROMISE YOU THAT WE WILL AMEND THE TRADE ACT, NOT KNOWING WHETHER WE CAN OR NOT. BUT WE DO WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WE SYMPATHIZE WITH THE VENEZUELAN AND UNDERSTAND THEIR POSITION. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF PRESS CONFERENCE.

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